

DEFECTS IN THE BALLOT LAW

CHANGES NEEDED TO MAKE VOTING
MORE EASY.

INJURY DONE TO REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES BY
JUDGE CULLEN'S DECISION—REMEDIAL LEG-
ISLATION NEEDED—SECRETARY PAL-
MER ON THE BLANKET BALLOT.

Albany, Nov. 10.—It is apparent from the talk of politicians, of inspectors of election and of members-elect of the Legislature that defects have been discovered in the Blanket Ballot law which will render it necessary to amend that enactment, and that the Legislature upon meeting in January will modify the law in several im-

One feature of the Ballot law which evidently is yet a puzzle to the courts is that which provides for the printing of the State tickets of the political parties upon the blanket ballot. Can a political organization existing in only one county act as though it were a State convention and nominate a State ticket? The General Term of the Supreme Court in the 1st Judicial District, in the case of the State Democratic organization

State ticket at the head of its local nominations in New-York. But then came Judge Cullen, of the Supreme Court, in the 11d Judicial District, and gave orders, that the Democratic State ticket should be put below the "battle-axe" of Patrick J. Gleason in Queens County, and thus Gleason was authorized, as it were, to be a State convention in himself and nominate a State ticket. And the Democratic State ticket accordingly was put in a column on the blanket ballot ahead of Gleason's local nominations in Queens County.

A county political organization thus, it is clear, made a State nomination. If Judge Cullen's doctrine is correct, county organizations all over the State will be making State nominations.

eratic State ticket on the blanket ballot, so far as Queens County was concerned, four times—once under the "star" of the "regular" Democratic party; once under the "ship" of the Democratic Party Reform Organization; once under "the rising sun" of the Independent Citizens Organization, and once under "the battle-axe"

The special harm, which the Republican party received in Queens County through Judge Cullen's decision was that many voters who desired to vote for Gleason for Mayor of Long Island City, abstained from the Democratic State ticket.

City, also voted for the Democratic State ticket and other Democratic State candidates, finding them in the same column of the ballot. Senator Childs, Republican, undoubtedly was put in the minority in the Senate district by this unfair advantage given to his Democratic rival, Theodore

Koehler. Another Republican candidate who suffered was Hugo Hirsh, of Brooklyn, one of the Republican candidates for the Supreme Court. Martin J. Keogh, Democrat, asserts that he has been elected a Supreme Court Justice over Mr. Hirsh, and that he has a plurality of 901 votes.

in the district. Keogh's plurality in Queen County was 946 votes. Mr. Hirsh's friends believe that every one of these 946 votes was due to Judge Cullen's decision putting the Democratic State ticket over the Gleason local ticket.

"Both Mr. Hirsch and Senator Childs," said Secretary of State Palmer to-day, "claim a election on the ground that the Gleason portion of the blanket ballot in Queens County was illegal. At Mr. Hirsch's request I have forwarded to him my official statement on oath that a

State tickets nominated by the Gleasonites was filed here in Albany as required by law. The county clerks of the various counties are guided and must be guided, by the Secretary of State in putting a State ticket on a blanket ballot because State nominations must be filed in Albany with the Secretary of State. The General

Term of the Supreme Court, when it decides against the State Democracy's right to use the Democratic State ticket, gave the right decision and the only logical one. Local county political organizations must not be permitted to make State nominations. We shall have innumerable nominations of State tickets if this

"Certainly it should be made clear," replied the Secretary of State, "that county organization cannot make State nominations, unless by a certificate of nomination signed by 3,000 persons. The reported relating on the blanket ballot is permitted."

The repeated printing of the names of State candidates also ought to be peremptorily stopped. It was a wrong to the Republican party that the Democratic party in every county of the State had its State ticket printed at least three times upon the blank ballot, and in Queens County had its State ticket printed at least four times.

MUST BE CORRECTED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

"Once is enough. The Democratic State ticket should have been printed under the 'star' and in no other place. This is a matter that must be corrected by the Legislature of 1896 or the Re-

publican party in self-protection will have to put its Presidential Electoral ticket upon the blanket ballot at least a dozen times. Of course the Democratic party would follow suit, and the Prohibitionists, Populists and Socialists likewise, and you would have a blanket ballot as big as a bed

quilt. The present provision that any 3,000 voters can make a State nomination would thus be worked to death. Tammany Hall nominated a State ticket, the Democratic State ticket, with certificate signed by 3,000 voters, under the guise of an Independent Citizens' Organization party. That is a trick which can be easily played. Later, slipped over by any political party, and

VOTERS WHO WERE MISLED.

James W. Bentley, Republican, who ran for one of the city offices here in Albany, speaking on the same topic to-day, said: "Many voters

voted opposition candidates innocently on Tuesday last by voting in the space to the right instead of to the left of the candidates they had selected. There ought to be a blank space between each column and not simply a black rule mark."

pendent State nomination should be permitted unless at least 5,000 persons sign the nominating certificate. This, they believe, would prevent the nominating of State tickets "for fun." They also think that the present law is a little too strict in regard to the marking of ballots, and that the intent of the voter, if clear, should be

RADICAL CHANGES NECESSARY.
It is clear from all the talk that radical changes will be made in the present Blanket Ballot law.

For one thing, the percentage required for the printing of a State ticket, 1 per cent, may be raised to 2 per cent. Now a party which poll 10,000 votes may have as a right a State ticket printed for it. Many members of the Legislature think that this requirement should be raised to 20,000 votes and that county or city certificate

Pittsburg, Nov. 10.—At a special meeting of the Structural Iron Workers' Union, held last night, the

grievances of the men employed by Buchanan & Co., contractors, received consideration, and it was decided to order a strike of all men employed by this firm. This action means that several hundred men will not go to work to-morrow morning, and work on several large buildings in process of construction will cease. The firm is one of the leading ones in the Pittsburg district, and has not yet

signed the workers' scale, although requested several times to do so.

STYLISH GOODS

need not be costly. This is exemplified by our fifteen-dollar suits and our fifteen-dollar overcoats.

GEORGE G. BENJAMIN, BROADWAY, COR. 26TH ST.—Adv.